

Resolution Relating to

ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
REDISTRICTING FOR 2021

RESOLUTION 5.04

Sponsor(s) Paul, Barlow, Carpenter

Introduced 06/28/21

Referred to: _____

Action: adopted

Date: 06/28/21

Signed by Mayor: 06/30/21

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-One

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, constitutional provisions require that voting districts be established in a manner that tries
2 to equalize the number of residents in each voting district within a jurisdiction; and

3 WHEREAS, the 2020 U.S. Census is nearing completion, and it is possible that the completed census
4 will show population shifts sufficient to warrant review of the City of Burlington's current ward/district
5 boundaries for local elections; and

6 WHEREAS, following the prior census in 2011, in July 2012, the City Council began the process of
7 redistricting with the formation of a Redistricting Committee; and

8 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2013, after several months of not being able to come to resolution on a plan
9 for redistricting, the Council expanded the committee to include citizen members with one community
10 member per ward and one alternate per ward; and

11 WHEREAS, the committee met over two months in 2013 and came forward with three plans for the
12 Council's consideration; and

13 WHEREAS, the voters, with 62% approval, endorsed the 8 ward/4 district plan on March 4, 2014 and
14 the new ward/district plan went into effect on March 3, 2015; and

15 WHEREAS, due to COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of the apportionment results
16 has delayed the Census Bureau's original plan to deliver the redistricting data to the states by March 31, 2021.
17 The U.S. Census Bureau announced in February 2021 that it will deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting
18 data to all states by September 30, 2021 with the states delivering data to municipalities shortly thereafter; and

19 WHEREAS, given that the process that began in the summer of 2012 took two years to reach a new
20 plan, the City Council wants to be more proactive in developing a plan in 2021; and,

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as voting and representation are so important to the
22 community fabric, the City Council, in the interest of establishing an open, transparent, nonpartisan and
23 independent process for redistricting, hereby establishes an AdHoc Committee on Redistricting to be formed
24 by September 16; the Committee will be independent of the City Council and School Board, or formerly-
25 elected officials of the same, but instead will include eight community members one community member from

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DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution
has been sent to the following
department(s) on

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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.....
.....

Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

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each ward selected by the NPAs at their June or July (or at their earliest) meeting, after each Steering Committee has alerted its constituency of the position and its responsibilities, which will include attendance at several meetings where the committee will take public input and gather community input to the current districting plan, review the past plan (when there were 7 wards and 14 City Councilors), hear opinions about the number of councilors per ward/district, and consider the current wards/districts configuration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should there be more than one person from a ward who expresses an interest in this position, the NPA will vote, at it June or July (or at their earliest) meeting, to select a representative to the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is imperative that each NPA and the City do its utmost to advertise this Committee position, making it clear that all are welcome to apply regardless of whether they attend NPA meetings regularly, so that the representative from each ward can be truly “representative” of that ward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall hold two public meetings where community input will be taken and the Committee will report back to the Council by the last meeting in October, and the Council will use this community feedback to offer guidance by resolution to a mapping specialist identified by the City Council; the resolution will include guidance on the preferred council/board structure, including the concepts of ward/district representation versus a ward only or district only configuration, the number of councilors, number of wards and/or districts, and whether regard to incumbency will be considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Census results show a population deviation of more than 10% in the existing districts or wards, then the mapping specialist will use this guidance and the Census figures that will be available by September 30 to redraw the lines if necessary, keeping in mind the need to respect neighborhoods, contiguousness, and compactness, as well as redrawing lines with consideration to the current lines when possible given the other directives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mapping specialist and the City Attorney will report to the City Council at the Council’s last meeting in November and will include a proposed map or set of maps for the Council to consider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council agrees it will try to place a redistricting plan on the March 2022 ballot.

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has been sent to the following
department(s) on

Assistant City Attorney St. James

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Establishing An Ad Hoc Committee On Redistricting For 2021

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Adopted by the City Council

June 28, 2021

Clerk

Approved June 30, 2021

Mayor

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Attest:

Lori Olberg
Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

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